

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method computer readable medium embodying a computer program for operating execution by a signalling gateway that performs a signaling gateway process comprising, the computer program, when executed by one or more computers, causing the one or more computers to perform the steps of:

determining, by the signaling gateway process, routing information for enabling an application server process performed by an application server to identify a signalling gateway process to which to direct signalling messages destined for a particular point code on a network; and

making said the information available to the application server process; and
directing, by the application server process, the signaling messages for the particular point code based on the information,

wherein the information takes the form of a routing table that serves to distribute signalling gateway process identifiers over possible signalling link selector values included in signalling messages sent by the application server process.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method computer readable medium as claimed in claim 1 comprising, further causing the one or more computers to perform the step of:

responding to a change in the status of links upon a route to a particular point code by redetermining the routing information for that point code and making the redetermined information available to an application server process.

4. (Currently Amended) A method computer readable medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determined routing information is made available to the application server process in response to receipt of an audit message sent from the application server process to the signaling gateway process for a particular destination point code.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computer readable medium as claimed in claim 3, wherein the determined and/or redetermined routing information is included in a message transmitted from [[a]] the signalling gateway process to [[an]] the application server process that serves to indicate the availability of the point code concerned.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computer readable medium as claimed in claim 1, including a registration step comprising transmitting a signalling gateway process identifier to [[an]] the application server process.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computer readable medium as claimed in claim 6, wherein the signalling gateway process identifier is included in an acknowledgement by the signalling gateway process of a message indicating that the application server process is ready to receive signalling traffic.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computer readable medium embodying a computer program for operating execution by an application server that performs an application server process to sending signalling messages to a signalling network via a signalling gateway comprising a plurality of signalling gateway processes, the method comprising computer program, when executed by one or more computers, causing the one or more computers to perform the steps of:

receiving, by the signaling gateway process, routing information and SLS values contained in signalling messages; and

identifying, by the application server process, a signalling gateway process to which to direct signalling messages destined for a particular point code by reference to the routing information received from [[a]] the signalling gateway process and the SLS values contained in the signalling messages; and

directing, by the application server process, the signaling messages for the particular point code based on routing information and the SLS values,

wherein the routing information takes the form of a routing table that serves to distribute signalling gateway process identifiers over possible signalling link selector values included in the signalling messages.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computer readable medium as claimed in claim 8 comprising, further causing the one or more computers to perform the step of: repeatedly receiving the routing information from [[a]] the signalling gateway process in messages that serve to indicate the availability of the point code concerned.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computer readable medium as claimed in claim 8 comprising, further causing the one or more computers to perform the step of: initiating the repeated sending of the routing information by including a request in an audit message for a particular destination point code sent to [[a]] the signalling gateway process from the application server process.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computer readable medium as claimed in claim 8 including, further causing the one or more computers to perform the step of: a registration step requesting and receiving a signalling gateway process identifier from [[a]] the signalling gateway process.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computer readable medium as claimed in claim 12, wherein the registration request is included in a message indicating that the application server process is ready to receive signalling traffic.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signalling gateway having has a redundant set of signalling links to a signalling network and having a single point code, or set of point codes, therein, and comprising wherein the signaling network includes a plurality of signalling elements ~~as claimed in claim 14~~, with each signalling element comprising a signalling unit to which a subset of the signalling links are connected.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

modifying, as a first modified routing table, the routing table by a first of a plurality of signalling gateway processes based on a first routing or prohibition message received by the first of the plurality of signaling gate processes;

outputting the first modified routing table to the application server process and to all others of the plurality of signaling gateway processes;

modifying, as a second modified routing table, the first modified routing table by a second of the plurality of signalling gateway processes based on a second routing or prohibition message received by the second of the plurality of signaling gate processes; and

outputting the second modified routing table to the application server process and to all others of the plurality of signaling gateway processes.

19. (New) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

modifying, as a first modified routing table, the routing table by a first of a plurality of signalling gateway processes based on a first routing or prohibition message received by the first of the plurality of signaling gate processes;

outputting the first modified routing table to the application server process and to all others of the plurality of signaling gateway processes;

modifying, as a second modified routing table, the first modified routing table by a second of the plurality of signalling gateway processes based on a second routing or prohibition message received by the second of the plurality of signaling gate processes; and outputting the second modified routing table to the application server process and to all others of the plurality of signaling gateway processes.